



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MEDICAL COMMAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20372

IN REPLY REFER TO

NAVMEDCOMINST 5350.1
MEDCOM-09B
30 May 1984

NAVMEDCOM INSTRUCTION 5350.1

From: Commander, Naval Medical Command
To: All Internal COMNAVMEDCOM Codes

Subj: SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5300.28A
(b) OPNAVINST 5350.4

1. Purpose. To provide guidelines and assign responsibilities for coordinating the policies set forth in references (a) and (b) relative to substance abuse among COMNAVMEDCOM military and civilian personnel.
2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6330.1.
3. Background. Drug and alcohol abuse is costly in terms of lost manhours and unnecessary administrative and judicial processing and is a critical drawdown on morale and esprit de corps. "Zero Tolerance" recognizes that drug and alcohol abuse is incompatible with the maintenance of high standards of performance, military discipline and readiness, and is destructive to the Navy's efforts to instill pride and promote professionalism.
4. Policy
 - a. There will be "Zero Tolerance" of drug and alcohol abuse. The abuse of alcohol and the illicit or improper use of drugs by Navy members can seriously damage physical and mental health, may jeopardize their safety and the safety of others, and can lead to criminal prosecution and discharge under less than honorable conditions.
 - b. The responsibility for drug and alcohol abuse rests primarily with the individual. However, the Navy has established and will firmly enforce policies, programs, and procedures designed to deter the incidence of drug and alcohol abuse.

5. Action

a. Director of Administration (MEDCOM-09B) shall:

(1) Establish an effective information program in that all available publicity resources will be used to deglamorize substance abuse and to emphasize the Navy's "Zero Tolerance" policy.

(2) Establish an effective educational program to provide COMNAVMEDCOM personnel with reliable facts on the destructive effect of drug and alcohol abuse on their health, welfare, and personal safety.

(3) Ensure that every effort is made to deglamorize alcohol abuse by eliminating those traditional practices which may overtly or covertly encourage personnel to drink irresponsibly. Peer pressure and an individual's need to "fit in" are powerful motivators which should be directed toward positive, growth-enhancing activity. Responsibility and moderation should be emphasized at command parties and picnics, happy hours, "wetting down" and advancement celebrations, initiations, hail and farewell parties, graduations, beach parties, etc. Recovered alcoholics and others who choose to abstain from drinking should be encouraged to attend and participate in these traditional Navy functions, which in themselves are a welcome part of Navy life. Adequate quantities of nonalcoholic and low-calorie beverages must also be provided at all Command functions where alcoholic beverages are served.

(4) Encourage social activities and greater use of all recreational facilities to the extent practicable. Recognize that recreational programs and services represent an alternative to drug and alcohol abuse not only as a deterrent, but also as a primary element in a command counseling and rehabilitation setting. Both innovation and creative leadership, combined with additional appropriated fund support or recreation facilities justified for emotional and physical well-being of Navy personnel can help to deter drug and alcohol abuse by promoting use and ensuring the adequacy of recreational alternatives.

(5) Emphasize physical fitness programs specifically designed to involve Navy members in healthy and productive off-duty physical activities.

(6) Submit required reports in accordance with reference (b).

b. Substance Abuse Coordinator (SAC) shall

(1) Advise the Director of Administration on the administration of the command substance abuse program.

(2) Conduct onboard screening of identified drug and alcohol abusers to determine proper referral for medical and psychological assistance.

(3) Coordinate and assist in conducting Level I drug and alcohol abuse awareness education.

(4) Assist in monitoring aftercare or followup support recommendations for members returning from Level I or II treatment programs.

(5) Serve as the Command's self-referral procedure agent.

c. Special Assistant for Medico-Legal Affairs (MEDCOM-00D3) shall advise the Commander, Naval Medical Command (MEDCOM-00) and the Director of Administration (MEDCOM-09B) on all legal matters as they pertain to the substance abuse program.

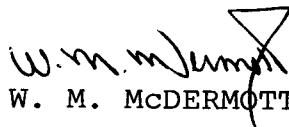
d. All personnel are responsible and fully accountable for their personal activities relating to drug and alcohol abuse and for any substandard performance or illegal acts resulting from such activities. Additional responsibilities include:

(1) Reporting known or suspected incidents of drug abuse to their immediate supervisor or commanding officer, security agency (e.g., base police or master at arms (MAA)), or local office of the Naval Investigative Service. Members of the naval service having knowledge of an offense committed by a person in the naval service, including a drug offense, are required by article 1139, U. S. Navy Regulations (1973) to report such an offense. Failure to do so constitutes an offense under article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(2) Encouraging persons suspected of having an existing or potential drug or alcohol abuse problem to seek assistance.

(3) Immediately notifying the appropriate authorities in accordance with paragraph 5d(1) when substance abuse is suspected.

e. Personnel at all levels of the Command shall adhere to the guidance provided by those individuals given responsibilities in this instruction.


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